

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) Method for making flexible tube skirts including a step of making a cylindrical sleeve from a planar web including one or more plastic or metal layers followed by a step wherein said cylindrical sleeve is cut out to the required length to obtain said skirts, characterised in that it includes a step prior to the step of making the cylindrical sleeve, wherein said web is subjected to a plastic deformation.

2. (original) Method according to claim 1 wherein said web is passed between two tools moving one relative to the other and the space between which offers said web an air-gap of a dimension less than the initial thickness of the web.

3. (original) Method according to claim 2 wherein a force is applied between said tools in such a way that the web emerges from said air-gap thinned plastically by more than 0.5%, preferably more than 1%.

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~ wherein a force is applied between said tools in such a way that the web emerging from said air-gap has an embossed decoration including raised surfaces or depths whereof the amplitude ranges between one thirtieth and five times the thickness of said web, preferably between one fifteenth and five times the thickness, preferably again between one tenth and 3 times the thickness.

5. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the claims 2 to 4~~ wherein said moving tools are substantially parallel rolls, at least one of which has etched raised surfaces, so that the web emerges embossed after passing between said rolls.

6. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2 wherein the web is compressed between said tools with a force of between 2.5 and 500 newtons per millimetre of web width.

7. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 wherein said web is raised to a temperature of between 75°C and 120°C before coming into contact with said tools.

8. (original) Method according to claim 7 wherein said web is kept at said temperature for at least a ½ second before coming into contact with said rolls.

9. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the claims 5 to 8~~ claim 5 wherein at least one roll is cooled such that its temperature is close to the ambient temperature, typically below 40°C, when the web, once it has emerged from the air-gap between the rolls, is either wound around a winder, or deformed with a view to shaping it into cylinder.

10. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the claims 5 to 9~~ claim 5 wherein the etched roll is also used to imprint a decoration onto said web.